AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m^2/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3,

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1% by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less, and

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of less than 6.720 Å.

2. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery comprising graphite having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m^2/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3,

wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm^2, the specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 ~~Ωcm~~Ω·cm, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less, and

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of less than 6.720 Å.

3. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3 and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C,

wherein when said powder is subject to pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm^3, a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 ~~Ωcm~~Ω·cm, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less, and

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of less than 6.720 Å.

4. (previously presented): A carbon material for a lithium battery, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3 and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less, and

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of less than 6.720 Å.

5. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein a specific surface area is not more than 3 m^2/g.

6. (previously presented): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein an aspect ratio is not more than 6.

7. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having a specific surface area of not more than 3 m^2/g and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3, wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm^3, a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 ~~Ωcm~~Ω·cm, ~~and~~

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less, ~~and~~

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of less than 6.720 Å, and wherein the graphite powder has an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600 °C.

8. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to 30 μm.

9. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to 30 μm.

Claims 10-21 (canceled).

22. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

23. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

24. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

25. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claims 26-27 (canceled).

28. (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

29. (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

30. (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

31. (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

32. (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

33. (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

34. (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

35. (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 2, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

36. (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

37. (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

38. (withdrawn): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 7, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

39. (previously presented): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific

surface area of not more than 3 m^2/g, and aspect ration of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8g/cm^3.

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1% by weight or less, and

wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.717 Å or less.